

IN THE CLAIMS

Claim 1 (currently amended): A runner lock device for umbrella comprising:

a central post including an outer peripheral portion,

a retainer device attached onto said outer peripheral portion of said central post,

a barrel slidably engaged onto said central post, and including an opening formed therein to receive said retainer device, and thus to latch said barrel to said retainer device and thus to said central post, and

means for disengaging said retainer device from said barrel, to release said barrel from said central post, said disengaging means including a sleeve slidably engaged onto said barrel and having an actuator arranged to engage with said retainer device and to disengage said retainer device from said barrel.

Claim 2 (original): The runner lock device for umbrella as claimed in claim 1, wherein said retainer device includes at least one cavity formed therein, said central post includes at least one projection extended from said outer peripheral portion thereof to engage into said at least one cavity of said retainer device, and to secure said retainer device to said central post.

Claim 3 (original): The runner lock device for umbrella as claimed in claim 2, wherein said retainer device includes a ring engaged onto said central post.

Claim 4 (original): The runner lock device for umbrella as claimed in claim 1, wherein said barrel includes a channel formed therein, and communicating with said opening of said barrel, to guide said retainer device into said opening of said barrel.

Claim 5 (original): The runner lock device for umbrella as claimed in claim 4, wherein said barrel includes an inclined surface provided in an upper portion of said channel thereof, to guide said retainer device into said channel of said barrel.

Claim 6 (canceled).

Claim 7 (currently amended): The runner lock device for umbrella as claimed in claim ~~6~~ 1, wherein said barrel includes a groove formed therein and communicating with said opening thereof to slidably receive said actuator of said sleeve.

Claim 8 (original): The runner lock device for umbrella as claimed in claim 7, wherein said groove of said barrel includes a width smaller than that of said opening of said barrel, to form at least one seat between said groove and said opening of said barrel, and for engaging with said retainer device.

Claim 9 (currently amended): The runner lock device for umbrella as claimed in claim ~~6~~ 1, wherein said sleeve includes a recess formed therein and aligned with said opening of said barrel to receive said retainer device.

Claim 10 (currently amended): The runner lock device for umbrella as claimed in claim ~~6~~ 1, wherein said barrel includes means for limiting a movement of said sleeve relative to said barrel.

Claim 11 (original): The runner lock device for umbrella as claimed in claim 10, wherein said limiting means includes at least one catch extended from said barrel to engage with said sleeve, and to limit the movement of said sleeve relative to said barrel.

Claim 12 (original): The runner lock device for umbrella as claimed in claim 11, wherein said sleeve includes at least one passage formed therein to slidably receive said at least one catch of said barrel.

Claim 13 (original): The runner lock device for umbrella as claimed in claim 12, wherein said at least one passage of said sleeve includes a height greater than that of said at least one catch of said barrel, and thus to slidably receive said at least one catch of said barrel.

Claim 14 (original): The runner lock device for umbrella as claimed in claim 11, wherein said sleeve includes at least one blade formed therein and defined by at least one slot, and having said at least one catch extended therefrom.